

# NEWS LETTER

---

---

IN THIS ISSUE

---

*I WONDER*  
*CONTEST RESULTS*  
*APRIL MEETING*  
*SEED PRODUCTION RESULTS*  
*CLUB NOTES*  
*ANNUAL FIELD DAY*

---

---

**APRIL**

**1931**

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Greens' Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

GUY C. WEST ..... Editor  
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

MARSTON BURNETT Business Mgr.  
330 Waltham St., West Newton, Mass.

April, 1931

Vol. 3, No. 4

### I WONDER?

Courses are open—hear the “swish” and whack

Of a nice long drive “right down the crack”

Players are happy, at least, they're free  
To play the game and not bothered be!  
I often wonder as they play the game  
If they ever stop to consider the same  
And realize just what's been “dun”

Thru the Winter months to increase  
their fun?

The gang's been busy, they fixed all the  
tools,

Kept the greens free from pools—  
Working on trees—getting sand and  
wood,

Fixing everything as best they could—  
Wondering how the Course'll come thru  
The Winter months—and sometimes  
blue!

If a player thinks of these things, it  
seems

He'd thank the men who keep the  
Greens.

Carlton E. Treat.

### NOTICE

The opening tournament of the Greenkeeper's Club will be held at Kernwood Country Club, Salem, Mass. on Monday, May 11, at 10 o'clock. After the tournament a dinner will be served and business meeting held.

Clifton E. Sowerby.

### Stop and Look

When a locomotive whistles for a grade crossing it's a good time to believe what you hear.

### CONTEST RESULTS

The judges of the articles submitted in the contest for the golf balls offered by the New England Toro Company, a green chairman, a professional, and a salesman, from three different clubs, award the prize to Mr. Ernest B. Lord of the Cohasse Golf Club, Southbridge, Mass. The judges' letters follow:

“I have read with much interest the three contributions to the prize contest about which you kindly asked me to express an opinion. Each of them has a difficult problem to meet and the experiences are interestingly covered. In my judgement Mr. Lord's and Mr. Peckham's articles are of equal value. From my limited knowledge I should judge they were entitled to share the prize.

“Mr. Robinson's article is also interesting and he has met his difficulties in a courageous manner.”

“Having read with a great deal of interest the articles submitted, I feel that the prize should be awarded Mr. E. B. Lord, because his article keeps best to the subject, and is more compact and concise”.

“I have selected the writing by Ernest B. Lord as the best of the three submitted to me for my opinion. I will give you briefly a few reasons why it appeals to me.

“In his writing he does not deviate from the subject. He also describes well his experiences with two of the most troublesome things with which a greenkeeper has to contend; that is, brown-patch and chickweed. I also thought it quite unusual for a greenkeeper to keep a record of the number of plugs of chickweed removed during a season, and which clearly shows how troublesome chickweed might be.”

We take this opportunity of thanking these judges for their kindness in passing on these articles, and also to thank the contestants for submitting these interesting articles.

## PROBLEMS OF THE PAST SEASON AND HOW I SOLVED THEM

Did the Greenkeeper have any problems last season? I believe we must all answer in the affirmative. April 1st, found us (of Cohasse) all ready for the gong; but somehow or other I could not help feeling a bit "shaky" concerning our "antique" fairway mowing units.

These mowers had been a source of trouble and worry for some time and their condition generally did not warrant all major and minor repairs required to insure their dependability.

After discussing the subject with our chairman we finally decided to purchase new and reliable units.

This was done, and, I am glad to say, proved a sure way out of further difficulty.

Chickweed in the greens had always been one of our greatest enemies here, and I must admit last year was no exception. I experimented with many so-called cures to no avail; the patches were ever increasing in size. Other methods having failed, I began to cut out all patches of either type to be found. This was done with three sizes hole cutters 8" 5" and 3". I cut down deeply enough to get all the roots. By the end of the season I had removed 1,740 plugs of chickweed and replaced with clean plugs from our turf nursery, which healed into place rapidly. I believe no other method is quite so safe, sure or economical. Brown Patches had never troubled us greatly, but somehow we came in for a share last season.

About the time of year when weather conditions etc; are most favorable for it, we began to pole our greens earlier in the mornings, usually from 4 a. m. For a long time I saw no signs of infected turf, and probably felt too safe.

One morning I allowed the poling to be left until 7 o'clock and then I discovered large Brown Patch in abundance. Getting out the sprinkler barrel we set to work to treat the affected greens with Semesan solution, applying it according to directions. Immediate attention alone, saved the turf, and even then the spots were plainly visible for a number of days. So once more we paid strict attention to early morning poling until I was sure the time for Brown Patch was past. But again we were doomed to disappointment as it came back as strong as before. The Semesan treatment was repeated and I vowed

never again give quarter if by waving a bamboo pole at daybreak we can frighten away this awful something, Brown Patch.

Ernest B. Lord,  
Cohasse Golf Club.

## MY PROBLEMS LAST YEAR AND HOW I SOLVED THEM

First, the problem was to keep a nine hole course, 3000 yards long, in good condition eight months in the year on a budget not to exceed \$4000, with but one assistant.

I believe it is of vital importance to roll both fairway and rough just as soon as the frost is out, while the soil is spongy with moisture, Eastern slopes first. By watching the soil condition every day I had my course in fair playing condition by March 20th, all greens smooth, cups in, and new flags up, ready to receive green fees from players from other clubs. All top-dressing for the season, (except what was necessary to save from drought) was done before time to mow the greens. We utilized every fair day to screen compost, mixing in Lecco and arsenate of lead under cover. We spread compost with number 2 scoop shovels, filling all depressions with back of wooden rake, and washed in compost before players could walk on it. We were able to treat two or three greens each fair day, depending on the size of the greens.

I was fortunate in having a very faithful, capable, hardworking assistant, who received \$4.50 a day and \$100 a season for overtime, working eight hours a day, Saturday afternoon off and Sunday morning on. The overtime came whenever the exigencies of weather or watering necessitated my asking for it.

I usually did all the mowing of greens and tees myself in the early morning, unless engaged to give lessons. Greens were mowed every other day, and tees twice a week. To get my weeding done, I was obliged to employ caddies when they were free, paying 25 cents an hour. Those caddies found loafing or toe-marking the greens were excused after the second offense. This requires oversight at unexpected times, but keeps unused caddies out of mischief and helps their earnings.

I play my course once every day to

observe playing conditions, and to keep up on my game.

The second problem of first magnitude was the phenomenally dry season, and while this decreased mowing, it enormously increased weed growth at the expense of grasses. Clover, formerly held in check, nearly monopolized some greens. Dandelions and all other deep rooted weeds were very much in evidence on the fairways. Wire grass became a menace.

To add insult to injury my spring went dry for the first time in 55 years, and the overloaded, overworked pump required the plumber twice in a while. We were forced to excavate beneath the spring to a gravel layer where we found a permanent supply.

Because the drought made mowing of fairways or greens either impossible or impractical, we had time to topdress nearly all our greens. After that we reseeded two greens, banked the back of another, and retrapped it as well. We found time to lay out and put in velvet bent stolons on a nursery 50' x 100'.

Now I will list all expenditures as accurately as I can:

Labor, for season	\$2,836.50
Caddie hire, (weeding)	103.00
New Equipment, (two units)	180.00
Gas, oil, grease	550.00
Repairs on Fordson and Thompson mower	145.00
Plumber	83.00
Hardware and Blacksmith	24.80
	<hr/>
	\$3,922.30

The use of the Fordson was a severe trial; the bill for repairs was one sixth the original cost; turning on the fairways annihilated the turf. However, I am planning on a new Toro Junior B. Model Tractor, that will save both the fairways and time and energy for my assistant.

R. W. Peckham,  
Sachuest Golf Club.

## SECOND ANNUAL GREENKEEPERS FIELD DAY

at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I.,  
May 25, 1931.

The first greenkeepers day held at the Experiment Station met with such great success last year that it is planned

to continue with the plan for this year also. The success last year was due very largely to the fine support and cooperation given the local management by the greenkeepers, greens section chairmen, and exhibitors. We have been assured of this cooperation and support again this year. The day set is Monday, May 25. The program planned is as follows:

- 10.00-10.30 Registration, Experiment Station.
- 11.00-12.30 Visit to Experimental Plots.
- 12.30- 2.30 Lunch, Dining Hall (\$.75). "Trees and Shrubs for the Golf Course" by Daniel A. Clarke.
- Discussion—Golf Course Problems, everybody.
- 2.30 Exhibits and Demonstrations. College Campus.

Mr. Clarke is a well known Rhode Island nurseryman and landscape architect. He is sure to have something both interesting and of practical value for all visitors.

Since the last field day a year ago, a number of plots have been added to the turf experiments. These include several new bent grass strains and varieties. Some of these show a good turf while others are just getting established. The old lawn plots established almost 30 years ago have been continued along the original lines and are always of much interest to visitors. They are a good demonstration of what different methods of fertilization will accomplish.

Some excellent yields of bent grass seed were obtained on the plots where different varieties were grown for seed production, last year. The plots of Rhode Island bent where different fertilizers were used for seed production also produced good yields with the better treatments. These results have caused considerable interest both locally and in other sections of the country.

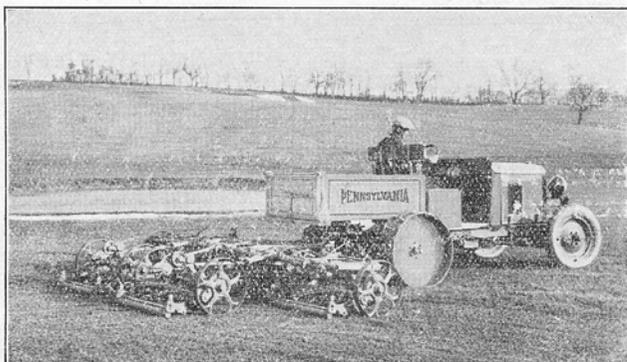
Commercial firms dealing in golf course equipment are again being invited to exhibit and demonstrate their different lines. The demonstrations will be held on the College Campus.

A cordial invitation is extended to greenkeepers, greens section chairmen and all others who may be interested in this field day.

T. E. Odland.

## "NEW MOWERS and PARTS—\$33.18"

Reports Overbrook's Treasurer for 1930!



Using Pennsylvania machines exclusively --on fairways, greens, tees and as trimmers --Overbrook Golf Club, Philadelphia, spent only \$33.18 for new mowers and part in 1930.

This is a record, particularly for an 18-hole course, that is always kept in fine condition, and it reflects credit on everybody concerned. As for the part played by the mowing equipment, we

gratefully acknowledge Treasurer H. T. McDermott's letter, in which he says: "Too much praise cannot be given the Pennsylvania Lawn Mower Works for supplying our Green Committee with such high quality machines."

Write now for a copy of our NEW 1931 GOLF CATALOG, which is yours for the asking, from our distributors:

JOHN J. NYHAN, 120 CYPRESS STREET, BROOKLINE, MASS.

RACKLIFFE BROTHERS, INC., NEW BRITAIN, CONN.

Pennsylvania Lawn Mower Works, Primos, Delaware County, Pa.

### BRECK'S

85 State St.—20 Lewis Wharf  
Boston

#### Ask For Demonstration

In 1923, the Jacobsen Manufacturing Company introduced the first Power Putting Green Mower. Having inherited certain fundamental principles already perfected in the well-known Jacobsen 4-ACRE Power Mower, the design of the putting green mower was well founded and the improvements made from time to time were mainly in the nature of mechanical refinements and adaptations to the peculiarities and changing nature of putting green turfs.

Greenskeepers, recognizing the economic need of a power green mower, have worked closely and willingly with us from the beginning and the Jacobsen Power Putting Green Mower has earned a definite place and wide recognition as a practical, economical and efficient cutting unit on putting greens. By its use, savings have been recorded of from \$600 to \$2000 in a single season.

The Jacobsen Power Putting Green Mower is built in two widths—one with a 19-inch reel, the other with a 24-inch reel.

## A COMPLETE LINE OF GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

#### Distributors for:—

Naco Golf Course Fertilizer  
Royer Compost Machines  
Synthetic Sulphate of Ammonia  
Albion Distributor  
Hardie Power Sprayers  
Thompson Sprinklers  
Seeds, Fertilizers, Etc.

## Arthur B. Porter, Inc.

55 DEARBORN STREET

SALEM, MASS.

Tel. Salem 2317

Write for our 1931  
illustrated catalogue.

When buying from our advertisers, mention NEWSLETTER!

## APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, on April 6th. The speaker was Dr. Burt Hartwell, former director of the Rhode Island Experiment Station. Dr. Hartwell spoke of his thirty-five years experience working on the subject of the relationship of soils and fertilizers and crops in general. We depend on the Experiment Stations for research, for our opinions. Each Station is studying its own problems, such as *poa annua* at New Jersey, and lead arsenate at Cornell.

In using lead arsenate for weed control, the acidity of the soil and kinds of weeds must be known. Calcium chlorate is now being used extensively as a weed killer. Arsenate of lead is more active under an acid condition.

A fertilizer furnishes plant food; and also does other things.

The degree of acidity of a soil can be measured; it is difficult to interpret after pH is known. A pH of 7 is neutral; the smaller the number the greater the acidity; pH of 4.5 is 300 times as acid as pH of 7. The active acidity should also be known.

Relatively speaking, pH of 6 has 10 parts of active acidity, pH 5.3, 50; pH 5.0, 100; pH 4.7, 200; pH 4.5, 300.

It is not a good thing to make a putting green neutral.

To eliminate clover, use high nitrogen. With high nitrogen and high acidity, it would take a large amount of potash to stimulate clover. 6-5-15 is ratio of weedless lawn fertilizer used for thirty-five years, plot is practically free from clover.

Potash influences the way in which nitrogen works; application of some potash to soil liberates free acid. (In orcharding a recent change has been made from nitrate of soda 16-0-0, to nitrate of potash, 12-0-45).

Active aluminum is liberated by free acid in soil; active aluminum is a very potent poison in strongly acid soil. Phosphorus and lime both inactivate active aluminum.

Phosphorus stays where it is put in soil; nitrogen goes anywhere. Potash is between, doesn't penetrate readily.

There is a confusion in fertilizer formulae, as first number may mean nitrogen or it may mean ammonia. Second number should mean oxidized phosphorus.

A high amount of organic matter is needed to hold the inorganics used. Soil must have *decomposing* organic matter. Organic matter conserves the moisture and regulates the food.

Magnesium is not ordinarily an ingredient of fertilizers, and yet is needed as much as the nitrogen.

An element is first a stimulant, then a food, then a poison.

We wish it distinctly understood that the NEWSLETTER tries to be impartial in its dealings with all advertisers or dealers. We hope that our readers will bear in mind that all articles express the beliefs of the writers, and not necessarily the opinions of the Editor of the NEWSLETTER, the Directors, or of a majority of our members. The NEWSLETTER is owned, managed, and published by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, by greenkeepers for the good of greenkeepers and greenkeeping! The Editor is happy at all times to receive letters from any reader who has any item of interest to greenkeepers to discuss. We will be glad to act as the chairman of the meeting, so to speak, in the discussion. This is our attitude in any discussion.

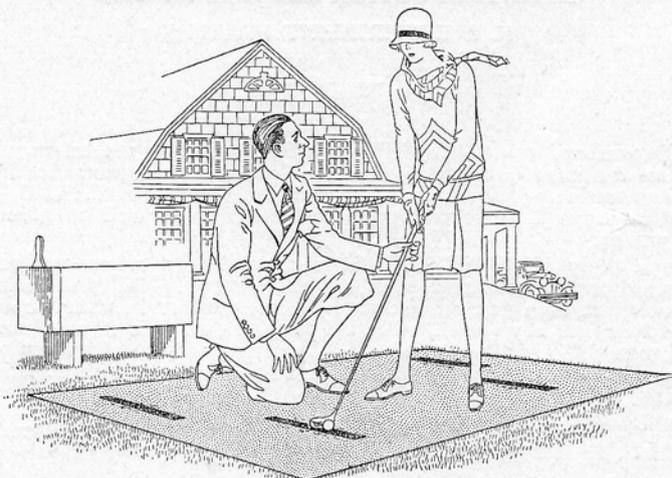
## WATER SYSTEMS CONFERENCE

Professor Gunness was in charge of this session. In answer to question of what kind of a pump was needed from brook or pond supply,—on account of lower price and less wearing parts, a centrifugal pump is best for ordinary conditions, unless a great pressure is desired. In regard to necessity for tank or pressure tank,—a tank is not necessary where water is desired for greens alone; but, where water is desired for buildings or at all hours, a pressure tank is needed.

Prof. Gunness discussed the laying out of a water system for nine holes, mentioning the size of pipe that was needed to give 40 lbs. average pressure at each green. His blackboard talk was very interesting and clear to understand.

Howard Farrant.

# PARATEX TEE MAT



### Make this test:

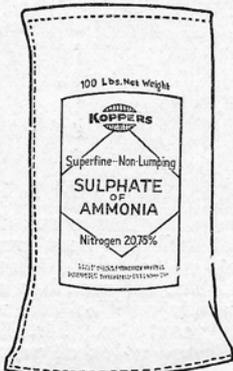
Install a Paratex at your tee that shows the hardest wear, or at your practice tee. Note how it stands up—provides firmer footing and altogether better playing conditions. Ask your players what they think of it. See how you have put an end to tee maintenance expense and time.

Then, after you have sampled the benefits of this one Tee Mat, you'll have Paratex Tee Mats on every hole of your course.

The Paratex Tee Mat is a half-inch thick surface of rubber composition that sturdily resists the abuse and wear of spikes, scuffed shots and weather. It is **guaranteed for one season under any condition of play.** The use of patented wood or celluloid tees is provided for by small slots correctly placed in the Tee Mat.

### Made in Three Sizes

4' x 6' \$25.00      4' x 8' \$32.00  
4' x 10' \$40.00



Get a copy of our Complete  
Catalog.  
Everything in Course Equipment

## Hovey & Company

150 MILK STREET  
Boston, Mass.

Tel. Hancock 1454-1455

Distributors

for

Victory

Putting

Green

Fertilizers

Our advertisers aim to please YOU

**SEED PRODUCTION RESULTS AT THE  
R. I. EXPERIMENT STATION**

In the December issue of the NEWSLETTER we gave preliminary lists of seed production on the test plots at the Rhode Island Experiment Station, amounts being given as uncleaned seed. In a recent letter from Dr. T. E. Odland of this Station, we have the final results, and we are very pleased to give them here. Dr. Odland writes:

"In some early NEWSLETTER I mentioned that when we got our data finally complete on the yields of our bent grass I would be glad to let you have that information in case you cared to use it in any way in your publication. We have the information now and I am glad to give you this if you care to use it. The following are the yields per acre of bent seed of the different varieties obtained on small plots at the R. I. Experiment Station last year, together with the germination:

Variety	Lbs. seed per A.	Germination
Redtop	356	88
Rhode Island Bent	264	81
Astoria Bent	310	87
Seaside Bent	143	68
Cocoos Bent	178	66
Washington Creeping Bent	153	61
Virginia Creeping Bent	323	39
Metropolitan Creeping Bent	73	65
Arlington Velvet Bent	33	79
Kernwood Velvet Bent	129	84
Highland Velvet Bent	152	90

As you notice we got a fair germination on all of them excepting Virginia Creeping Bent, some of them were very good indeed. On the plots where we used different fertilizer ratios the yields were as follows:

Fert. Ratio	Yields of R. I. Bent Seed		Germination
	Lbs. per A N P K	Lbs. seed per A	
0- 0-0	0- 0- 0	28.1	88
1- 6-3	15- 90-45	32.2	83
2- 6-3	30- 90-45	70.7	93
4- 6-3	60- 90-45	103.4	82
6- 6-3	90- 90-45	154.7	92
6- 2-3	90- 30-45	138.6	83
6-10-3	90-150-45	148.4	87
6- 6-1	90- 90-15	165.0	87
6- 6-5	90- 90-75	143.2	93

Mr. North has just returned from Washington where he has spent three weeks with Dr. Hillman studying the seed characteristics of different bent grasses. The seeds of bent grasses are very much alike but there are minor differences by which different strains and varieties can be told apart. Dr. Hillman has spent much time studying the characteristics of these grass seeds and he can make determinations now that were thought impossible a few years ago. Mr. North says he enjoyed his stay down there very much and gathered a lot of valuable information of which he expects to make use of in his work here at the Station."

# The Worthington Lawn Tractor

Engine, Ford, Models T or A

Short wheel base—turns on radius of seven feet.

Minimum weight, 1000 pounds. Prevents injury to the turf.

Abundance of power. 23 horse. Guaranteed to pull a Worthington gang mower up any hill that requires cutting, on any golf course in America.

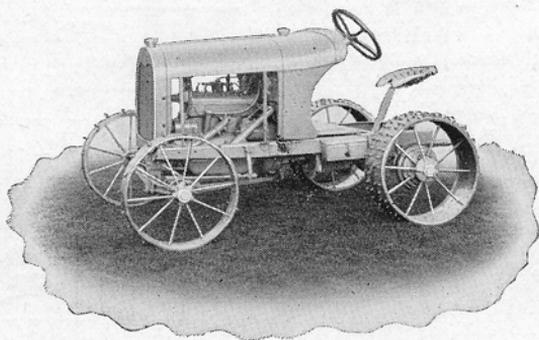
Unequalled Speed. Safely operated at twelve to fifteen miles per hour.

Lighting System. Enables operator to cut the fairways at night.

It has become the standard lawn tractor of the foremost clubs, parks and private estates of the country. Fully guaranteed.

Price—Model T (starter and lights extra)  
\$496.00 f.o.b. factory.

Price—Model A (with self starter)  
\$625.00 f.o.b. factory



Write For Full Particulars To The  
**NEW ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE**

For The Worthington Mower Company

**E. R. SAWTELLE**

ONE STATE STREET

BOSTON

Telephone Hubbard 2424

Give our advertisers a trial

---

**CLUB NOTES**

Manchester Country Club,  
Manchester, N. H.

We are fertilizing more than ever this year. We were fortunate in having very little snow mold or Winter kill this Spring. We hope to have first class greens and fairways this year after our elaborate fertilizing this past Fall and this Spring.

Hatherly Country Club, Minot, Mass.

We are finishing this Spring changes started last Fall, remodeling traps, tees, enlarging tees, enlarging some greens by pulling them out in front, etc.

Kernwood Country Club, Salem, Mass.

We are making an addition to our pro shop building so as to enlarge the pro's sales room, including improved arrangements and interior decoration. Two new shelter houses are contemplated; walls of cement tile construction, roofs of wood; to include closets for tools of the greensmen.

Braeburn Country Club,  
West Newton, Mass.

Unemployment help is being used to clean up edges of woods along holes. We are finishing up changes made on some traps.

Woodland Golf Club, Auburndale, Mass.

Fertilizer used on fairways consisted of sulphate of ammonia and castor pumace mixed at rate of 15 pounds sulphate with 100 pounds castor pumace and applied at rate of 300 pounds per acre.

Charles River C. C.,  
Newton Centre, Mass.

Regular greens were put in play on April 2nd We are renovating fairways, seeding bare spots caused by drought of last Summer. Also applying a 20 tons car of 10-6-2 fertilizer on our fairways.

---

Pres. Treat has appointed as the Welfare Committee: J. Sullivan, Chr., J. McDonough, and H. Mosher; and as Employment Committee: Shanahan, Chr., T. Fahey, and T. Galvin.

---

**HOW TO TREAT THE "ITCH"**

Yes, Carl, I have that "Itch" in Spring, It is a most bewitching thing.  
But what I cannot realize  
Is why you should apologize  
For such a charming kind of feel  
That tickles one from head to heel.  
If you were really feeling right  
You'd knock a few balls out of sight.  
Why not get back that pristine swing,  
When first the birds appear in Spring?  
Just shake a leg and you'll be stronger  
Don't freight that fat 'round any longer.

But I don't see just what he means  
About the man who keeps the greens.  
The motive there is quite obscure,  
The "Itch" he has he must endure;  
For such an "Itch" there is no cure!

"Rube."

---

**FOR SALE**

To highest bidder—about 7000 sq. ft. putting green sod from No. 11 and No. 18 greens. Mixed grasses.

R. A. Mitchell,  
Kernwood C. C., Salem, Mass.

---

"QUALITY"  
**LAWNS, GOLF and  
SPORT TURF**


**MATERIALS**

American and Imported Grass Seeds, Fertilizers, Manures, Chemicals, Fungicides, Soil Sponge, Imported Peat and Mowers.

60 CONGRESS STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

Telephone Liberty 6021

---

IT PUTS THE  
**GREEN**  
INTO GOLF GREENS

and what is more important, it gives you Greens that **STAY GREEN** throughout the season.

Write us for further information about—

**Gro-Fast Golf Green Fertilizer**  
and  
**Gro-Fast Fairway Fertilizer**

the two mixtures that furnish a complete Fertilizer treatment for Golf Courses.

The  
**Rogers & Hubbard Co.**  
Portland, Conn.  
Established 1878

OUR  BRAND

**GOLF SEEDS**

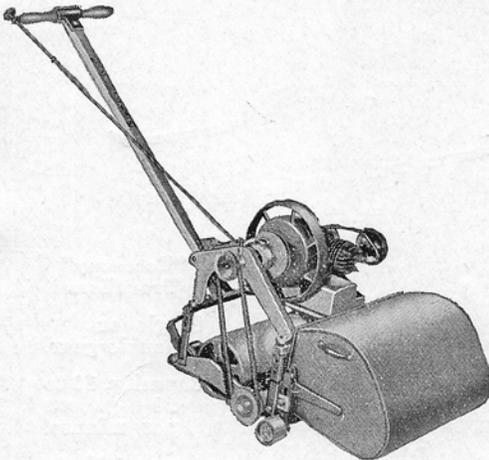
are produced by the world's foremost growers

Officially analyzed for purity and germination and sold on that basis.

Distributors of  
**VICTORY PUTTING GREEN FERTILIZERS**

Write for price list or send specifications where large quantities desired. Prices reasonable.

**Thos. W. Emerson Co.**  
215 STATE STREET  
BOSTON, MASS.  
Wholesale Merchants Since 1865  
Telephone, HUBbard 0985



IDEAL POWER  
GREENSMOWER  
LIGHTEST IN WEIGHT.  
EASIEST TO OPERATE.  
AND LOWEST IN PRICE.

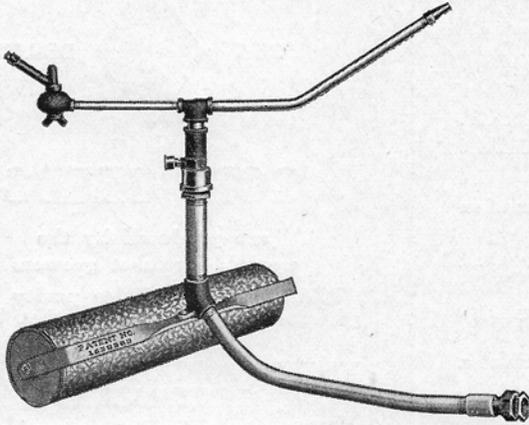
We carry a complete line of golf equipment and maintain a fully equipped service station.

**IDEAL POWER LAWN MOWER CO.**

Boston Factory Branch  
273 BOYLSTON ST., BROOKLINE, MASS.

When writing our advertisers, mention **NEWSLETTER**

## "ECONOMY" SPRINKLERS



### "Economy" President

Simple -- Durable -- Efficient.

Adjustable to cover area from 80 to 120 feet.

Capacity, 12 to 20 Gallons per minute.

Adjustable without tools.

Complete with roller base \$15.00

With sled base \$13.00

Head only \$10.00

### "Economy"

#### 4 Arm Simplex

Low pressure sprinkler.

Operates from 10 to 100 pounds pressure.

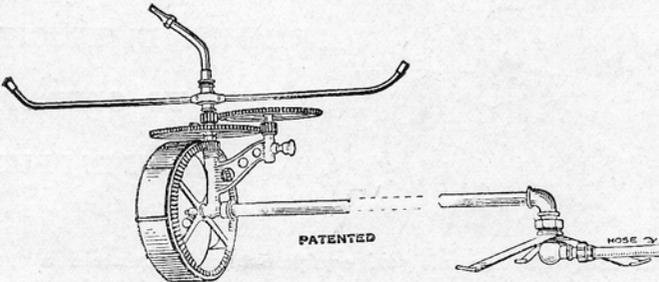
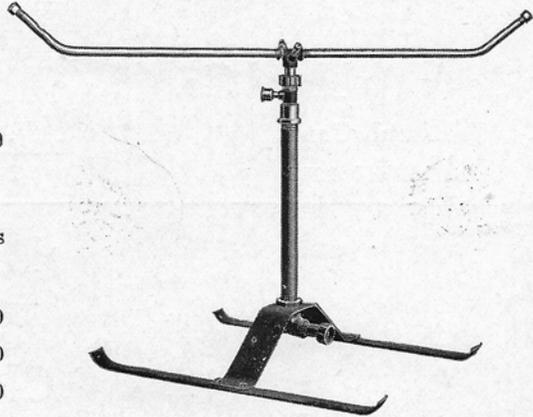
Area 50 to 75 feet.

Capacity, 10 to 15 gallons per minute.

Complete with roller base \$11.00

With sled base \$ 8.00

Head only \$ 6.00



### "Economy" Travellers

Single or double gear.

Capacity, 10 to 20 gallons per minute.

Area, 120 to 180 feet.

Price either single or double gear models. \$30.00  
 "Try an Economy on your grounds without cost to you"

New England Distributors

**NEW ENGLAND TORO COMPANY—NEWTON, MASS.**

Phone or wire collect.—Newton North 7900-7901